GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3618
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2006
LOWER SUBANSIRI HYDRO POWER PROJECT
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the original outlay, installed capacity and commissioning schedule of the Lower Subansiri Hydro Project by NHPC along with the revised status at the present price level;

(b) whether any apprehension created in the minds of the people by several NGOs about the possible breach of the dam and resultant disaster in the downstream areas in the event of earthquake or climate change;

(c) if so, reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the reason for delay and target set for commissioning of Middle and Upper Subansiri Project;

(e) the total percentage of the project cost utilized in each of the last thee years on community development/welfare programme in the adjacent and downstream areas of LSV including erosion control as well as antipollution measures; and

(f) the details of plan, to enhance this amount indicating various field of activities envisaged?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) : Approval of the Government of India was conveyed on 9.9.2003 for implementation of the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (2000 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh in the Central Sector by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited

(NHPC) at an estimated cost of Rs. 6285.33 crores including IDC of Rs. 670.92 crores at December 2002 price level. The project, which is scheduled for commissioning in September 2010, is not yet due for review for cost revision.

(b) & (c) : NHPC have informed that certain articles have been published in a few local and national newspapers by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) about possible breach of the dam and resultant disaster in the downstream areas in the event of earthquake or climate change. These articles might have given rise to certain apprehensions in the minds of the people. To allay the apprehensions of the NGOs and to restore the confidence of the local people, on the suggestions of the Government, NHPC is in the process of awarding a study, by involving the local people, for a fresh and transparent scientific assessment of the downstream impact of the project.

(d) : The Survey & Investigation Works for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) the Subansiri Middle (1600 MW) and the Subansiri Upper (2000 MW) in the Central Sector Hydroelectric Projects by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) in Arunachal Pradesh has been suspended as the proposal for Site Clearance Stage-II has been rejected by the Ministry of Environment & Forests on the basis of recommendations of the Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL) in the case of the Subansiri Lower HEP that `there will be no construction of dam upstream of Subansiri river in future`. The matter is now sub-judice before the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India.

(e) & (f) : Expenditure incurred on community/welfare programme is 0.54% of total expenditure incurred on works excluding advances in the last three years. NHPC has already constructed a number of Spurs/Gabions in the down stream of the dam amounting to Rs.250 lakhs. Regular tests on water quality and impact of construction on water quality are being conducted and monitored regularly. These tests are being conducted through Pollution Control Board, Government of Assam and no adverse impact on water quality has been observed. NHPC has taken up studies regarding impact on the down stream of the dam through the reputed Government organizations. Necessary works shall be taken up based on the outcome of these studies.